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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th May 1900.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

Helping poor Persian students.

The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 30th April is glad that Mirza Raza Khan, a Persian merchant at St. Petersburg, has, by his personal exertions, raised a large sum from among the Persian residents in the Russian empire for the purpose of helping poor Persian students. HABLUL MATEEN, April 30th, 1900.

Persia.

2. The same paper says that the war in South Africa has given Russia an opportunity to gain her long-cherished object in Asia. She is gaining slowly, but steadily, a supremacy in Persia. She advanced a loan to the Shah. The Persians should not be angry at the Shah's borrowing money from Russia and they should let the past bury its dead. Let them face the present. Most probably Persia will utilise the borrowed money in a way that will prove beneficial to her people. When a railway will be constructed from Azerbijan to Khorasan, it will bring a profit that will almost equal the sum borrowed from Russia. The railway will, in fact, give a new life to the people. It will moreover confer a boon on the pilgrims who have to incur much expense, in going to Khorasan on pilgrimage. Russia nowadays can move her troops from St. Petersburg to Herat and Zindarud. But Persia cannot move her troops from Teheran to Khorasan, even at a large expense, within six months. By the railway Russia is taking away all the wealth of Persia, but no one knows that. It is said that when there was no Russian railway on the frontier of Afghanistan, the Amir's troops posted at the frontier annihilated one or two Russian regiments in a single night, and Russia could not retaliate. But now the Amir cannot do that, because in a few hours Russia can send an overwhelming force to the Afghan frontier. In fact, the Persians have lost their former character. Bribery has made them deaf and dumb. Infidelity to God is rampant among the Persians. Crores are being extorted from poor Persian subjects by *hakims* and functionaries, and still they persevere in doing this. They feel no sympathy for their future generation. They think that their prosperity lies in the ruin of the subject-people. They do not fear that day when they will be treated like dumb-driven cattle and will be deprived of their religious liberty. Where are those who used to heroically defend the frontiers of Persia? Echo answers—where? We have been oppressed by the *hakims*; we have been ill-treated for good service done. The happiness of a subject-people depends upon the vitality of the law prescribed for the people; but when there is no law their happiness is only a name. It is the duty of the *alims* to give Persia a new lease of prosperity and happiness. The first and the foremost step is education—I mean mass education. HABLUL MATEEN.

The Transvaal war.

3. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 3rd May has the following with reference to the Transvaal war:—

About 20,000 to 25,000 men have lost their lives on the two sides, and money has been wasted like water in this bloody war. After such a large sacrifice of life and money the English have been able only to relieve Ladysmith and Kimberley. Mafeking and Wepener are still to be relieved. Kroonstad has not yet been occupied. Though the English have occupied Bloemfontein, they have not yet been able to clear it of enemies. Skirmishes are taking place around it, and it is practically surrounded by the Boers. The Goddess of Victory is now on the side of the English and now on the side of the Boers. Under these circumstances, how can we expect a speedy termination of the war? Considering the form the war has assumed, we think that it will be a protracted one But when a Government is thus engaged in a long war, it cannot direct its attention to other important affairs of State, and if it falls into another difficulty while so engaged, it cannot make its way out of it. It is high time that a treaty was concluded on some condition or other. The longer does the war last, the more injury will it cause to the Empire. It is needless to say that the war, if not speedily concluded, will become a source of difficulty, not only to the English, but also to their poor subjects. RANGPUR DIKPRAKASH, May 3rd, 1900.

HABLUL MATEEN, May 7th, 1900.

4. The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 7th May contains the following in continuation of what it contained in its last issue (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 5th May, paragraph 4):—

The German Embassy in Persia.

Amb.—What is the feeling of the Shah and his ministers in regard to the paper *Hablul Mateen?*

Persian.—The Shah takes great interest in the paper. He used to take great interest in it even when he was heir-apparent. Acting upon advice of this paper, he intends to encourage tea plantation in Persia. As a proof of the interest he takes in the paper, he conferred upon its editor the title of *Muayed-ul-Islam.* Moreover, the editor receives from the Shah about four hundred a year. The Grand Vizier of Persia is a patron of the *Hablul Mateen.* There are, of course, some people who feel a grudge at the position held in Persia by the paper.

Amb.—What is the circulation of the paper?

Persian.—I cannot give the exact number of copies circulated. Perhaps it is something like 7,000.

Amb.—How many copies are circulated in Persia?

Persian.—About two thousand and a half. In Teheran alone the paper has more than 800 subscribers.

Amb.—Where are the remaining copies circulated?

Persian.—Mostly in India. Some copies are circulated in other countries.

Amb.—What do the Indians and others think of the Persian paper?

Persian.—Indians are Persian-knowing people, and the Persian merchants living in foreign countries subscribe to it. The paper is supported mainly by subscriptions realised from these people.

Amb.—Why does the paper sustain pecuniary loss in Persia?

Persian.—The editor of the paper does not hesitate to sacrifice his income for the good of his countrymen.

HABLUL MATEEN.

5. The same paper says that so long as Persian merchants are not given the privilege of paying less duty on their goods than foreign merchants, it will be very difficult for Persian merchants to compete successfully with European merchants. European merchants buy their goods very cheap and sell them in Persia dear, while Persian merchants buy them dear and have to sell cheap. This brings about not only the demiralisation of the mercantile community of Persia, but also the poverty of the Persian kingdom. If the Persian Government intends to revive the indigenous commerce of Persia, it ought either to impose a duty on her trade at the rate of 7 per cent. in the case of foreigners and 5 per cent. in the case of native merchants, or to grant the latter the monopoly of sugar, tea, piecegoods, &c. Nowadays every civilised nation has placed the commerce of their country on such a footing that it cannot pass out of their own hands. The safety of Persian trade lies in preventing foreigners from interfering with the commerce of Persia. The system under which the trade in Persia is now carried on is calculated to encourage foreign trade at the cost of the national trade.

Persian commerce.

HABLUL MATEEN.

6. The same paper is sorry that opium-eating is becoming more and more popular in Persia. A Persian merchant has got a large opium shop in Khorasan, and he imports opium from foreign countries. It is said that his opium business is flourishing and is profitable.

Opium-eating in Persia.

HABLUL MATEEN.

7. A correspondent of the same paper says that no one ought now to feel sorry that Russia has obtained the concession of constructing a railway in Persia. The proposed railway may, in spite of its supposed evil tendency, prove somewhat beneficial to the country. It may, for instance, supply the Persians, who are now street-beggars for want of work, with work. It will open a new field for the Persians, and they will be employed as railway clerks and officers. It is to be hoped that Russia, who has never hesitated to give posts of honour to her Muhammadan subjects, will instruct the authorities of the proposed railway to procure the services of Persians in carrying on the railway works. There are many Persian youths, including Musalmans and

The proposed Russian railway in Persia.

Zoroastrians, who will gladly accept posts on the railway and do the work satisfactorily. If, therefore, the railway authorities employ Persian labour in the construction of the railway, that will be a great favour to them.

HABLUL MATEEN, May 7th, 1900.

A Persian arsenal.

8. A traveller, writing in the same paper, says that he saw the Persian arsenal, and found it quite unfit for use in modern warfare. Some of the artillerymen said that a large expenditure had been sanctioned by the Government for the maintenance of the arsenal, but not a single pice had been spent on its account by the high officials.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

AL PUNCH, April 27th, 1900.

A Bakrid riot in the Monghyr district.

9. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 27th April is ashamed to write that there was a riot between the Hindus and the Musalmans of Khedar chak in the Begusarai subdivision of the Monghyr district on the occasion of the Bakrid festival. One Amiruddin, a local zamindar, slaughtered a cow. The Hindus resented this, gathered in numbers with dangerous weapons, and actually *looted* the house of the zamindar. The loss sustained by the zamindar is estimated at something over fifteen thousand rupees. Not satisfied with this, the rioters burned all the books that they found in the house. It is said that some of the valuable manuscripts written in the time of the Caliphs of Bagdad and some important documents were burned to ashes. The Hindus treated a copy of the Koran in a very ruffianly manner. It is said that a good many of the rioters are the Babu saheb's tenants.

HINDI BANGAVASI, April 30th, 1900.

The Dinapur assault.

10. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April is sorry that there was a fight between some European soldiers and natives at Dinapur. The *Englishman* ascribes the cause of this disturbance to the growing aggressiveness of the natives, while the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gives a different version altogether. It is for the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to bring the truth to light.

CHARU MIHIR, May 1st, 1900.

Cow slaughter at the Ghatail out post in the Tangail subdivision.

11. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 1st May says that the slaughter of a cow by the Musalman writer-constable of the Ghatail outpost, in the Tangail subdivision, at that outpost, some time ago, has deeply wounded the feelings of the entire Hindu population of the place. Such an act may lead to disturbances. It is hoped that the District Superintendent of Police will make an enquiry into the matter.

SANJIVANI, May 3rd, 1900.

Improper treatment of a *sannyasi* by the Rangpur police.

12. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May complains that the police of Nilfamari, in the Rangpur district, very discourteously treated an English-knowing and well-behaved *sannyasi* who lately paid a visit to the town. The police treated the *sannyasi* like a criminal at large. They took him for a member of the *Gorakshini Sabha*, and showed him very scant courtesy. It is true that many criminals often hide their crimes under the sackcloth of a *sannyasi;* but the Nilfamari police was not justified in treating an innocent man like a criminal on mere suspicion. It is a pity that even the admission of educated men into the police is not improving its moral status.

HITAVADI, ay 4th, 1900.

Cause of recrudescence of dacoity in Bengal.

13. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May publishes a letter from a correspondent, complaining of the recrudescence of dacoity in Bengal, and says that the growing poverty of the people is not at the root of this recrudescence of dacoity. The people of Bengal are, as a rule, docile and law-abiding, and ars not easily led into committing crime. The correspondent's letter runs a follows:—

It is our firm conviction that ten or eleven years ago, daring thefts and dacoities did not frequently take place in the country. Nowadays, however, they have become pretty frequent. Will not the authorities take this matter into their close and careful consideration? It is useless to make a superficial enquiry, and arrive at a superficial conclusion. Our information is derived from a retired police officer who rose to the post of Police Superintendent. The opinion of an able and experienced police officer like him should not be lightly

treated. In his opinion there are at present no such turbulent tribes in Bengal as can dare to defy the powerful British Government and run the risk of being punished. The Goalas of Santipur and the Matkomras of Nadia are now things of the past: Mr. James Monro exterminated them. The descendants of the notorious Bengali dacoits are now hopelessly malaria-stricken. Those who are now committing dacoities come from the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces. They are mostly Hindusthanis, Musalmans, Peshawaris, and Kabulis. The Calcutta *gundas* are recruited from among them, and it is they who swell the ranks of the dacoits who have proved themselves a terror to the mufassal people.

Only a few days ago a daring dacoity was committed at Halishahar, but the police have not yet been able to trace the offenders. It is said that there was not even one Bengali among the dacoits. There were Hindusthani *mehtars* among them, but no Bengali. It is also said that some of these dacoits are still going to Halishahar by rail, and they tell the people to their face that it was useless to watch at night. They would be soon tired, and there would again come the opportunity for the dacoits. The authorities are requested to enquire into all these allegations.

About seven or eight years ago a Goswami of Santipur was attacked on his way home by some Kabulis and robbed. He escaped with his life with great difficulty. About three or four years ago, when Mr. K. C. Dé, was the Sub-divisional Officer of Ranaghat, a gang of Kabulis were brought before him. Dangerous weapons and house-breaking implements were found in their possession. The Kabulis and Peshawaris wander about the country in the guise of pedlars; but their real occupation is dacoity. Not more than two or three months ago a gentleman of Nadia saw a gang of Kabulis in police custody. He learnt that they had committed a daring dacoity in some village. All these instances convince us that most of the dacoities in the country are committed by these Kabuli pedlars.

To prevent these dacoities it is necessary that the police should closely watch these Kabuli and Peshawari pedlars. When a gang of vagrants come to a village, three or four, and sometimes even seven or eight, constables are told off to watch over them. Some such arrangement should be made with regard to the Kabuli hawkers. Even under strict police surveillance the vagrants commit petty thefts. It is therefore no wonder that the Kabuli pedlars, having no one to watch over them, should commit depredations in the country.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

HINDI BANGAVASI, April 30th, 1900.

Hindi as the court language of the North-Western Provinces.

14. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April thanks Sir Antony MacDonnell for making Hindi the court language of the North-Western Provinces. So long the people who did not know Urdu experienced very great difficulty. This difficulty has now been removed. There has been difference of opinion about the wisdom of the change. Almost all the Hindi papers, as well as some of the respectable Urdu papers, have taken the side of Hindi. Mr. Sayed Ali Belgrami and other leaders of the Musalman community declared themselves in favour of Hindi.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, May 1st, 1900.

The resolution on the Chapra case.

15. With reference to the Government of India's resolution on the Chapra case, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 1st May has the following:—

The Indian people are fortunate in having such a highminded man as Lord Curzon at the head of the administration. He does not hesitate to censure any official of the Government who commits oppression even on the meanest of Her Majesty's subjects. Our Viceroy is well aware of the duties and responsibilities of a ruler. We may well hope that the Indian people will be able to live in happiness during his rule. All praise to you, Lord Curzon! You have given sufficient proof of your benevolence.

CHARU MIHIR, May 1st, 1900.

The resolution on the Chapra case.

16. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 1st May says that if a man deserves any credit for baffling a confederacy of the officials fond of dominion and the disgrace of their class, that credit certainly belongs to Mr. Pennell. But for poetical quotations and want of sobriety, Mr. Pennell's judgment in the Chapra case would have a been model judgment. But the mistake

committed by Mr. Pennell has been avoided by Lord Curzon. With a firm but gentle hand he has operated upon the poisoned ulcer of the Saran officials. His resolution reminds one of Lord Lytton's Fuller minute, and the Governor-General of India could make no better use of his pen. All officials, old or young, native or European, should preserve this resolution as an invaluable document.

In this resolution Lord Curzon has referred to the radical defect of the executive department. The mischief that results from the union of executive and judicial powers in the same hands is not unknown to Lord Curzon. The Congress is trying hard to effect a separation of the two functions, and the matter is being considered by the Government of India. The late Mr. Monmohun Ghosh cited a thousand instances of the mischief which is done by this system. Lord Curzon, who is attentive to everything, may have heard of this. People will forget the evil done by the officials in the Chapra case if it proves the means of effecting a separation of the two powers.

17. The same paper says that Babu Fakir Chand Chatterji, Subdivisional Officer of Tangail, committed a mistake in issuing a warrant for the arrest of one Sultan Shaikh, a party in a case under section 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and in ordering his commitment to *hajat* for failure to give bail. Cases under section 145 of the Code are of a quasi-civil nature and admit of an *ex-parte* decision. Under such circumstances the Deputy Magistrate had no right to send Sultan Shaikh to *hajat*. His conduct in this case shows what little regard he has for the law; and it is easy to imagine how the people must fare under an officer who has so little regard for the law.

CHARU MIHIR, May 1st, 1900.

An arbitrary proceeding of the Subdivisional officer of Tangail.

18. The same paper finds fault with Babu Ghanasyam Gupta, First Subordinate Judge of Tangail, for dismissing Small Cause Court suit No. 37, because the witness for the plaintiff could not, without seeing the bond, give the name of its writer as well as of the person who signed for the defendant. By dismissing the case the Subordinate Judge has done great injury to the plaintiff, for there is no appeal against judgments in Small Cause Court suits. The Subordinate Judge is often found to display similar want of coolness and ignorance of the law in the trial of original as well as appeal cases. It is for the authorities to consider whether an officer who shows such carelessness and want of coolness in trying cases is fit to be entrusted with Small Cause Court powers.

CHARU MIHIR.

The First Subordinate Judge of Tangail.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May learns from the *Medini Bandhav* that Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, sentenced a Guzerati *sadhu* to six months' imprisonment for going to the Magistrate's house at nightfall to beg. Begging is a crime under the British law; but a few days' imprisonment would have satisfied the ends of justice in this case. It is not always necessary to heartlessly enforce the law.

SANJIVANI, May 3rd, 1900.

Six months' imprisonment for begging.

20. Referring to the complaints of the *Charu Mihir* regarding the conduct of Babu Ghanasyam Gupta, Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 5th May, paragraph 17), the same paper regrets that an official of Babu Ghanasyam Gupta's position should conduct himself in this way. A judicial officer who loses his temper so easily is not fit for the bench. It is hoped that Ghanasyam Babu will not forget his position and responsibility, and will conduct himself in a more dignified manner in future.

SANJIVANI.

Babu Ghanasyam Gupta, Subordinate Judge.

21. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 3rd May has the following with reference to the Government of India's resolution on the Chapra case :—

KHULNA, May 3rd, 1900.

The resolution on the Chapra case.

We are satisfied with the resolution of the Government of India on the Chapra case; but we are bound to say that Lord Curzon has taken a onesided view of the matter. According to Lord Curzon and the High Court certain passages in Mr. Pennell's judgment are couched in a style which cannot but be regarded as "intemperate and conspicuously wanting in that sense of dignity and self-restraint which ought to characterise judicial utterances." But the resolution is silent about the ill-treatment which Mr. Pennell received in the hands of the executive officials in the Narsingh case. Mr. Bourdillon, the then Commissioner of the Patna Division, requested Mr. Pennell to hear the appeal in the Narsingh case in his chamber instead of

in open court. Such a request can only be made by the parties in a case. Such a request, when made by a third party, is considered an offence under the law. If, instead of Mr. Bourdillon, a non-official had ventured to make such a request to the trying Judge, he would certainly have been sent to jail. But the Government is silent about this unlawful and improper conduct of Mr. Bourdillon. Under the Criminal Procedure Code all Magistrates are bound to submit explanations to the Judge regarding judicial matters. When the appeal in the Narsing case was filed, Mr. Pennel called for an explanation from Mr. Twidell, the District Magistrate. But Mr. Twidell, under instructions from Mr. Bourdillon, declined to give any explanation. The Government is silent about this most unlawful act of Mr. Bourdillon. Mr. Pennell has been censured, but Mr. Bourdillion has been promoted. What a pity!

BASUMATI, May 3rd, 1900.

The decision of the High Court in the Sibold case.

22. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May writes as follows with reference to the decision of the Calcutta High Court in the Sibold case:—

We are not dissatisfied with the decision of the Calcutta High Court. Gurudyal was destined to die a violent death, and he died. We do not like to see Mr. Sibold hanged for Gurudyal's death. We shall however be glad if the Government makes arrangements to prevent high executive officials from acting foolishly and childishly. Such conduct as that of Mr. Sibold certainly creates disaffection, however slight, in the public mind.

HITAVADI, May 4th, 1900.

The theft in the Calcutta Collectorate.

23. In continuation of what it wrote in a previous issue (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 5th May, paragraph 58), the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes that the cashier deposited five thousand rupees, the value of the stamps stolen, as soon as the theft was discovered. It is therefore said that the report that the thief had been arrested at Chandernagore was not true. What information has then reached the Bengal Secretariat?

HITAVADI.

The Assistant Settlement Officer, Dumka.

24. In continuation of what it wrote in a previous issue (*vide* Report on Native Papers for 21st April, paragraph 17) the same paper has the following about the Assistant Settlement Officer of Dumka:—

It seems that it is almost impossible to get justice in the Sonthal Parganas district. Bansihari Dutta's complaint against Sayed Ekram Hosain, Assistant Settlement Officer of Dumka, has borne no fruit. The Assistant Settlement Officer has submitted the following explanation to the Settlement Officer:—

Dated Dumka, the 5th April 1900.

To—The Settlement Officer, Sonthal Parganas, Dumka.

SIR,

With reference to the exaggerated complaint filed against me in the Court of the Subdivisional Officer, Dumka, I have the honour to submit the following explanation.

2. The complainant was deputed by the zamindar to open a *mody's* shop at my camp at Parighadih in Phuljhari. Previous to his arrival my camp had been served with *rasad* by other *modies*, who gave no trouble whatsoever. As soon as the complainant came, troubles commenced and complaints were loud and general regarding the commodities sold by him.

3. The day previous to the alleged occurrence I sent for the complainant and remonstrated with him. I told him that the whole of my camp was dissatisfied with the articles sold by him, and that he would have to produce better stuff. He paid no heed to my orders and the next day produced articles for sale even worse than before. The rice was unhusked, and full of pebbles, and not fit for consumption. On my again reproving him he became very insolent, and provoked me so that I ordered his ears to be pulled by a chaprasi. The chaprasi carried out my order, and in so doing probably committed a technical assault; but I beg to submit that the complainant deserved even more than he got for his insolence.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

S. EKRAM HOSAIN,

Assistant Settlement Officer, Circle I.

The Assistant Settlement Officer does not deny that he had the ears of the complainant pulled. Even if it is true that the complainant supplied the Assistant Settlement Officer's camp with bad stuff, there were legal remedies open to the Settlement Officer for this evil. The complainant is not Ekram Hosain's slave, and neither he nor his servants had any right to pull him by the ear. It ought to have been remembered that, by pulling the complainant by the ear, Ekram Hosain committed the same offence of which Bansihari would have been guilty if he had kicked his oppressor on the head. If the Subdivisional Officer who tried the case had considered himself placed in the complainant's position, he would not have so lightly dealt with the case. Ekram Hosain appears to be so insolent and highhanded, so cruel and barbarous, that he does not appear to have been satisfied with having the complainant pulled by the ear. He says that "the complainant deserved even more than he got for his insolence." It is strange that Ekram Hosain dared to use such language in his explanation; and it is a pity that the Court accepted such explanation. All this leads us to think that the Sonthal Parganas district is not within British dominion.

Who will remind these cowards that such conduct is highly objectionable? Such miscarriages of justice only serve to encourage the guilty. They make us forget that we are living under British rule; that Lord Curzon, the large-hearted Lord Curzon, is at the head of the administration. We earnestly pray the authorities to take the matter into their consideration. If such miscarriages of justice are not prevented, it will be indirectly telling the people that they will get no justice in a law court in such cases, and that they are at liberty to take the law into their own hands. But we do not approve of the policy of letting the people take the law into their own hands, and hence we pray for justice.

25. A correspondent of the same paper writes that the complaints against the sarishtadar of the Bankura Judge's Court have borne no fruit. The Judge is on the side of the sarishtadar, and has taken him under his protecting wings. Protected by the Judge, the sarishtadar is again doing injustice to his staff. He is appointing outsiders to vacancies, ignoring the claims of apprentices better qualified. The appointment of Bimal Chandra Sen, Suryyakanta Ghosh, Sarat Chandra Dé, Ramnarayan Karmakar, Anandalal Biswas, Prasanna Nandi, and Saikh Najiruddin in utter disregard of the claims of apprentices better educated and better qualified, proves that the sarishtadar is trying his best to appoint his favourites to vacancies in the office.

HITAVADI, May 4th, 1900.

The sarishtadar of the Judge's Court, Bankura.

26. The *Samay* of the 4th May writes:—

Mr. Pennell can no longer expect any promotion. We feared as much when the Bengal Government, knowing that he was in bad health, transferred him to an unhealthy place like Noakhali. Although an ornament of the Civil Service for ability, impartiality, and love of justice, Mr. Pennell has now had his promotion stopped for good for possessing these very qualities. What judicial officer will, after this, injure his propects in the service by meting out condign punishment to an accused officer? What judicial officer will, after this, sacrifice his own interests by doing justice to a native who, oppressed, insulted, and harassed by a civilian, seeks redress at his hands? The Viceroy has, it is true, spared no one. Mr. Pennell's antagonists say that the Viceroy has not failed in this connection to read a lecture even to the Bengal Government. But what of that? What right had the Viceroy to interfere with judicial integrity? What need was there also for such interference? The Viceroy would have entitled himself to everybody's gratitude, and done immense good to the country, if he had remained content with censuring the conduct of the executive officers, leaving it to the High Court to criticise Mr. Pennell. The evil that has been done may be in some measure remedied if, for the sake of upholding judicial independence, the Chief Justice now takes Mr. Pennell under his protection.

SAMAY, May 4th, 1900.

The resolution on the Chapra case.

27. The same paper accepts the sentence passed by the High Court in the Sibold case as right and according to the law. But the question is whether this sentence will have a deterring effect on future offenders. Hanging

SAMAY.

The High Court's decision in the Sibold case.

is the penalty prescribed by the law for murderers. In this instance, to say nothing of hanging, a sentence of only four months' simple imprisonment has been passed for that offence. Will this sentence frighten Europeans or encourage and embolden them? We are told that Mr. Sibold had no intention of killing Guru Dayal. All that he wanted was to teach Guru Dayal that, as soon as a native sees an Englishman, he must alight from his horse and *salaam* to him. But there is one thing which we do not understand. We have read in the Penal Code that where bones are broken and severe injuries are inflicted the offence amounts to grievous hurt under section 325 of that Code. In this case bones were broken and severe injuries were inflicted. Why then was not section 325 found applicable here?

We cannot help adverting to another matter here. By mere accident this case was heard before the highest Court in the country, and the Judges had all their own way in it. But this is not what happens in such cases in the ordinary course of things. Since the man died from the effects of hurt, and that hurt was serious, the Magistrate could have easily sent up this case to the High Court Sessions. If that had been done, six or seven European jurors would have sat with the Judges and would have been judges of the evidence.

We ask our readers to consider whether a European jury would have, like the Judges in this case, believed the native witnesses for the prosecution and declared statement after statement of the European accused as false. We remember that native witnesses who come from the mufassal to give evidence in the High Court Sessions are in many cases disbelieved as liars, and that is the reason why Europeans accused of the murder of natives are for the most part acquitted.

DACCA PRAKASH, May 6th, 1900.

The resolution on the Chapra case.

28. Although Lord Curzon has not meted out any punishment to the guilty officials, the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 6th May thanks His Lordship for his resolution in the Chapra case in consideration of the increased lustre which will be shed on British rule if the officials take warning from it. The writer is sorry that His Lordship has found fault with Mr. Pennell for want of sobriety in the language used by him. But he cannot but thank the Viceroy for his love of justice.

PRATIVASI, May 7th, 1900.

The Ricketts case.

29. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May draws Lord Curzon's attention to the Ricketts' case, and asks whether mere censure is sufficient to bring undutiful, partial, and dullheaded Magistrates to their senses. Does Lord Curzon think that his resolution on the Chapra case will serve his purpose?

BHARAT MITRA, May 7th, 1900.

Lord Curzon on the Chapra case.

30. Referring to the Government of India's resolution on the Chapra case, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th May observes that Lord Curzon has perceived that there was a gross miscarriage of justice in the Chapra case, and that Mr. Pennell rightly set aside the decision of the lower court. His Excellency has confirmed the punishments inflicted upon Messrs. Twidell and Corbett by Sir John Woodburn. It is a matter of satisfaction that the honour of a British court of justice has been vindicated by Lord Curzon. He has also come to understand that the union of the judicial and executive functions is at the root of injustice like this. Lord Curzon's resolution should be a warning to those civilians who misuse the powers with which they are entrusted by the Government and wantonly oppress the poor Indian people.

(*c*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BARISAL HITAISHI, May 2nd, 1900.

Sanitary condition of a place in the Backergunge district.

31. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 2nd May complains that a compounder, who is not a passed compounder, has been sent to treat cholera patients in the Rajapur outpost in the Backergunge district. As there is no good private medical practitioner in that outpost, an incompetent doctor like this compounder should not have been sent there.

The water of the *khal* and the river in the outpost is brackish and the few tanks there being connected either with the *khal* or with the river, their water also has a brackish taste. The prevalence of cholera in Barisal town has become less frequent since the preservation of reserve tanks there. The District

Board may be saved the cost of keeping a cholera doctor at Rajapur if it excavates a few reserve tanks there.

The authorities have ordered that the Rajapur Hospital building should be constructed of tin at the cost of the residents of the place. But the residents are poor, and a building cannot be expected to be constructed by them. The local zamindars should contribute towards the construction of the building. But no good result can be expected, unless the kind Magistrate bestirs himself in the matter.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

32. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May complains that the new arrangement, according to which the Matla-Diamond Harbour, and Budge-Budge trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway are to start from the Baliaghata station will cause passengers no little inconvenience. The platform at this station is very low. There is no waiting-room for female passengers. The platform is uncovered, and there is overcrowding, causing the female passengers very great inconvenience.

SANJIVANI, May 3rd, 1900.

The Baliaghata station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

33. A correspondent of the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 3rd May complains that at present there is no convenient means of communication between Dumuria and Khulna. Communication by boat is costly as well as risky. The present road between Dumuria and Daulatpur is 19 miles long. But the distance may be reduced to 7 miles if the road from Shahapur is connected with the Sajiara road.

KHULNA, May 3rd, 1900.

Two roads wanted in the Khulna district.

A road should also be constructed between Dumuria and Surkhali. There will be two ferries on that road, each of which may be expected to yield an annual income of Rs. 500. The District Board will have therefore to pay little from its fund for its construction. There is already a bridge on the Dumuria *khal*. The following gentlemen are entitled to the thanks of the residents of Dumuria for the bridge:—Khidir Gain, who constructed the bridge, his son, Najer Chaudhuri, who repaired it, and Babu Madhab Chandra Ghosal, of Bhandarpara, who lent Rs. 250 without interest for its repair.

34. The *Bargavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May writes that the best means of improving the water-supply of this country for irrigating agricultural lands is to dig and re-excavate tanks. There were formerly in every village tanks the water of which was chiefly used in irrigating lands and washing and watering cattle. These were called *sechan* tanks or irrigation tanks. There used to be a number of such tanks in every village, but they are now dried and silted up. In the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, and Birbhum some of these tanks still exist; but they are a thing of the past in the districts of Hooghly and the 24-Parganas. The raiyats have therefore been put to great difficulty in irrigating their lands. Canals cannot serve all lands, and irrigation by canal-water is costly both to the Government and the raiyats. Lord Curzon has increased irrigation expenditure from 75 lakhs to one crore of rupees, but he admits that even this amount, large as it is, is not sufficient for the purpose. The Hon'ble Rai Bepin Krishna Bahadur said in the Legislative Council that the Government should preserve the old irrigation tanks and dig new ones wherever they are wanted. In the opinion of the officials, tanks do not sufficiently serve the purpose of irrigation. But that is a mistake. It is true that nothing but copious rain can properly irrigate the lands; but when the rains fail, it is tanks, and tanks alone, which can irrigate the fields. The digging and repairing of such irrigation tanks will not only be a boon to the agriculturists, but will also improve the sanitation of the country.

BANGAVASI, May 5th, 1900.

Irrigation tanks in Bengal.

35. The *Basirhat Suhrid* [Basirhat] of the 5th May complains that the unmetalled road from Arbelia to Metia in the 24-Parganas district becomes practically impassable during the rainy season. The passenger and wheeled traffic on this road is very large.

BASIRHAT SUHRID, May 5th, 1900.

A bad road in the 24-Parganas district.

36. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May, says that *saltis* or canoes are at present the only means of communication between Jaynagar and Magrahat. But as the *khal*

BANGABHUMI, May 8th, 1900.

The Jaynagar *khal*.

remains dry during a great part of the year, considerable difficulty is experienced in going from either place to the other. The authorities are requested to reexcavate the *khal*.

(*h*)—*General.*

HITAVADI, May 4th, 1900.

37. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May has the following:—

The income tax.

The income tax administration is this country is not impartial, and the manner in which the tax is collected is objectionable. The weak are oppressed and the strong are let off. Formerly natives as well as Europeans had to pay this tax; but the compensation allowance is compensating the Europeans for all losses, while the burden of the tax is still placed on the shoulders of the natives. Their burden has, in fact, been made heavier instead of being lightened. This is why the income-tax is so unpopular.

The minimum taxable limit of income is five hundred rupees a year, but are all people, with income less than five hundred rupees a year, exempted from the tax? So far as our experience goes, the law is not always acted up to in assessing the income of a person. Income is generally over-assessed. People do not always venture to complain of over assessment, and where they do complain their complains are not heard. The reason is not far to seek. Complaints against over-assessment have to be made to the very persons who over-assess. Under these circumstances, justice cannot and should not be expected.

To make the point clearer, let us suppose that a person's income has been over-assessed. He complains and is required to produce his books to prove over-assessment. A native, with a small income, does not always keep books, and his application is rejected. Even if books are produced, they are found to be not properly kept. But this is not all. Injustice is committed in many ways, which is proved by the large number of objections which are filed in the income-tax office, and all of these objections are not groundless and unreasonable.

The income tax office is one of the most mismanaged offices. The employés are required to come to the office at 10 A.M., but few come before 11 A.M. or 12 noon. Those who may have filed objections are required to wait long, and are harassed with postponements.

HITAVADI.

38. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Government's policy of distrusting natives.

Lord Roberts' skill, the British rifle, and British money may bring the war to a speedy termination; but we do not think that the war over, there will be unbroken and undisturbed peace in the country. Russian advance is no longer a dream, an idle conjecture, and we ought to prepare ourselves against it. A Russian invasion of India will injure no one more than the Indian people. The Indian people know this, and are therefore sincerely desirous of peace. They are also aware that the military strength of the country should by all means be increased; but thoughtful Indians are of opinion that it is much more desirable to increase the internal resources of strength than to maintain a large European army.

If the European officials in India had acted impartially—if they had not made any distinction between natives and Europeans—if their acts had kept pace with their professions—if they had sincerely trusted the Indian people and had not followed a policy of distrust,—the policy of 'divide and rule'—thousands of brave and well-trained Indians would have come forward to lay down their lives for their country and their sovereign. These volunteers would have fought more bravely than mercenary soldiers, and India could have defied a thousand Russias.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

PRATIVASI, May 7th, 1900.

39. In reply to Mr. Maclean's question, writes the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th May, the Secretary of State said that

The sugar duty law.

the duty on bounty-fed sugar was doing good to the indigenous sugar industry in India, and should not therefore be abolished. The fact however is that this duty has done good only to Mauritius sugar.

If Indians had opened sugar manufactories, they too could have profited by this duty. So far as India is concerned, the only effect of the new duty is that the Indian people are buying sugar dear.

IV.—Native States.

40. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May draws the attention of the Government to the distressed condition of the exiled Manipur Raj family. The Viceroy is a just and impartial ruler, and it is hoped that he will take pity upon these helpless people. The English always treat the fallen with magnanimity; and the Viceroy, it is expected, will treat the distressed Manipur Raj family with his wonted generosity.

SANJIVANI, May 3rd, 1900.

The exiled Manipur Raj family.

41. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th May draws the attention of the Government to the distressed condition of the exiled Manipur Raj family and writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI, May 5th, 1900.

The distress of the exiled Manipur Raj family.

The Manipur embroglio is a memorable event in Indian history. Mr. Quinton's journey to Manipur and his murder, the British expedition to Manipur, the Manipur war and the defeat of the Maharaja of Manipur the execution of Tikendrajit and the exile of Kuluchandra—all these sad and mournful events will make Lord Landsdowne's rule live in the memory of the Indian public. It is unnecessary to relate again those sad events What we are concerned about at present is to bring the distressed condition of the exiled Manipur Raj family to the notice of the Government. The families of Kuluchandra and Tikendrajit now helplessly depend upon the benevolence of the British Government. The condition of these families is said to be helpless. It is hoped that Mr. Cotton and Lord Curzon will make an enquiry into it. It is hoped that Lord Curzon, the kindhearted Lord Curzon, will take pity upon these helpless people. It is true that the Maharaja of Manipur was responsible for the Manipur disaster, but he and his brother have paid the penalty for their crime. Let not their widows and children suffer. Let the Government remove their distress.

V.—Prospects of the Crops and Condition of the People.

42. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI, May 3rd, 1900.

Famine in India.

In the opinion of the Government it is the irregularity of rainfall—sometimes its failure, and sometimes its excess—that is at the root of the frequency of famine, in India. That this opinion is not correct can be easily proved. There never occurred in this country, within the last hundred years, a severer famine than the one which is raging this year; but there is still sufficient food in the country to preserve the lives of the famine-stricken millions. The present famine has evidently been brought about, not by want of food, but by the want of money to buy food with. This means that the people are being ground down by taxation. The raiyat can save nothing after paying the taxes; no margin is left to him. It is those provinces in which there is no permanent settlement of the land revenue which suffer the most during a famine. The Government's theory of Indian famines does not therefore appear to be a sound one.

The problem can be solved only by the appointment of a commission to enquire into the causes of famine. It will go hard with the people if the problem is not speedily solved. The Indian exchequer is not rich enough to save millions of people from starvation almost every year. It is true that the Government is trying its best to relieve the distress of the famine-stricken people; and even foreign countries are contributing to the Indian Famine Relief Fund. But how long will the people have to depend upon the charity of others? How long will the people have to live in constant fear of famine? It has become urgently necessary to ascertain the causes of famine, and remove those causes as soon as possible.

43. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May has the following about the German Emperor's contribution in aid of the famine-stricken people of India:—

BANGABHUMI, May 8th, 1900.

The German Emperor's contribution to the famine fund.

All honour to you, Emperor! All honour to your munificence and to your love for India! India will always remain

indebted to you for this godlike act of yours. It is not every human being that is a man. It is only the man who has a noble heart that is a man—nay, greater than a man—a god! The plaintive cry of India has reached your ears over the seas and has moved you to pity. For this India will always worship you with showers of gratitude. We are poor and have nothing else to offer but tears of gratitude. With tearful eyes and grateful hearts, and eyes raised towards heaven, we bless you with uplifted hands.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

Basumati, May 3rd, 1900.

44. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May has the following:—

The *Englishman's* attack on educated Indians.

The *Englishman* is evidently trying its best to make the most of the silly season, and that is why it is persistently attacking the educated Indian and calling him disloyal and seditious. Two months ago articles after articles were published in the *Englishman* expatiating on Indian loyalty. In connection with Indian contributions to the Transvaal War Fund, the *Englishman* said many kind and affectionate things to the educated Indian; but a couple of riots have at once changed its opinion, and it is now saying many hard things about him. There are two, and only two, ways in which we can explain this inconsistency. The *Englishman* has taken to abusing the educated Indian, either out of a commercial motive, or because it has lost its head.

Not long ago it is the same *Englishman* which said that the educated Indian was loyal. Imitation is said to be the best form of flattery, and by imitating everything English the educated Indian is paying the most loyal tribute to his ruler. It is true that he now and then lets loose his tongue in criticising the British rule, but that is a proof not of disloyalty but of attachment and affection touched to the quick.

But we must admit one thing. There is no doubt that the more are we imitating English manners and customs, the more are we losing touch with the illiterate and ignorant Indian masses. We therefore have no influence in our society. Moreover, under British rule all power and influence is centred in the Government. All Indians, from the Rajas and Maharajas down to the street beggar, are on the same footing. Even a notorious *gunda* can drag a Maharaja to a law court and put him to trouble if he can only manage to induce a couple of men to bear witness against him. Even a notorious thief knows that no one has the right to even slap him on the face for committing the most daring crime; he must be prosecuted and legally punished. In short, no one cares a farthing for any one in society. We no doubt enjoy freedom of speech, but that right is not always honoured. Not even the rajas and maharajas are regarded by the Government as spokesmen of the people. The police is all-powerful. No one else has any power. If the police fail to keep the peace, we should not certainly be held responsible for that. During the Musalman rule the zamindars, talukdars, and *jagirdars* enjoyed large powers, and if there was any disturbance in the country, the Government officers could hold them responsible. But the British Government does not trust any one, and does not allow any one to enjoy any power. Why should, then, the British Government hold us responsible for riots and disturbances? In the Native States riots and disturbances are not so frequent as in British India. If a riot breaks out in a Native State, it is easily put down by the Resident. But in British India a riot or a disturbance cannot be put down so easily. Why is this so?

The *Englishman* ought to know that the people are in no way to blame in this matter. It is the administrative system in vogue in British India and the all-powerful police that are responsible for these frequent riots and disturbances. We are, of course, prepared to submit to any rules and regulations that the British Government may devise, to any system of administration that it may introduce; but we must say that if the wise and considerate plague regulations framed by Sir John Woodburn and Sir Antony MacDonnell be replaced by the severe and drastic rules and regulations which were enforced in Bombay, the consequences will really be serious. The insane effusions of the *Times of India* prejudiced the mind of Lord Sandhurst. And the consequences of his plague policy were the murder of Rand and Ayerst and an undercurrent of discontent. Let not the *Englishman* forget its responsibility and excite suspicions in the public mind.

45. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes as follows:— HITAVADI, May 4th, 1900.

The *Englishman* on British prestige in India.

The *Englishman* seems to be very unfavourably disposed towards the Indian people. In its opinion the Europeans are entitled to the respect of the Indian people; and the Indian people are bound to silently put up with any ill-treatment they may receive at the hands of the Europeans. The *Englishman* imagines that the natives hate the Europeans, and the native papers are inimically disposed towards them. Our contemporary goes the length of saying that this growing native hatred of Europeans is due to misplaced generosity of the Europeans for natives. The *Englishman* is now too excited to hear reason. It will find out its mistake in its calmer moments. It should however remember that if there really exists native hutred of Europeans in the country, the cause of that hatred is the insolence of the Europeans.

46. A correspondent of the same paper contradicts the complaints made against the *mohant* of Tarkeswar in a previous issue of this paper (*vide* Report on Native Paper for the 5th May, paragraph 66). HITAVADI.

The *mohant* of Tarkeswar.

47. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th May has the following:— DAINIK CHANDRIKA, May 8th, 1900.

The *Englishman's* attack on Indians.

Our contemporary of Hare street is born to defend the interests of the Anglo-Indian community. It counts Anglo-Indians, and only Anglo-Indians, among its subscribers, writers and patrons, and it is therefore bound to go against the natives. To tell the truth, the *Englishman* is anti-native to the core. Its anti-native feeling attained its climax during the Ilbert Bill controversy. That controversy over, its anti-native feeling subsided into a gentle current, and in the beginning of the Boer war our contemporary surprised the Indian public by the sudden change of its tone. At that time the *Englishman* eloquently eulogised the Indians, high and low, for their steadfast loyalty. But perhaps the *Englishman* itself has been most surprised by its praise of native loyalty and is now recanting. It is now writing, article after article, on native disloyalty and native hatred of Europeans. In a recent issue it published a letter said to be written by a native. The letter is as follows:—

THE NATIVE PRESS AND THE WAR.

[THE following is a translation of a letter addressed to us in Bengali. —Ed., "E."]:—

To the Editor of the *Englishman*.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your allowing a space in the *Englishman* for the following letter after translation:—

The true colour of the Native Press has come out on the occasion of the Boer war. With the exception of the three or four newly-published journals none has been heartily pleased with the British victories in South Africa. When the whole civilised world was surprised at the continuous British reverses, the joy of the native papers knew no bounds. When Kimberley and Ladysmith were relieved, when the Boer Lion was entrapped after fearful battles, when Bloemfontein was occupied, then the heart of the many loyal (native?) editors began to break, but they could not give out anything for fear. At the present moment many have again raised their heads at the sight of the good luck of the Boers. Some say, perhaps Lord Roberts will have to be confined at Bloemfontein; others say he will perhaps have to die for the want of water. On the whole, the condition of the Native Press has become very miserable. The conductors of the papers are making their uneducated readers great British haters by their unmerited praise of the Boers and their abuse of the British. Cronje surrendered after nine days' fighting, and at once the body of the native papers become full of praise of his valour. But the fact that Colonel Baden-Powell with a handful of soldiers has been holding the fort of Mafeking for six months is passed over with very little comment. The reverses of the British at Reddesburg were made much of, but nothing was written about the victory of Lord Methuen at Boshof. Three or four lines which were written were taken up in bewailing for the death of Villebois-Mareuil. That Reddesburg and Rouxville have been re-occupied by the British has not been mentioned in

many of the (native) Bengali papers, lest the revealing of this truth raise any doubts in the minds of the readers regarding the siege of Bloemfontein.

Native writers find very little countenance in the columns of the *Englishman* newspaper, and it is very unlikely that a native, especially a native who does not know English, should write a letter to the *Englishman*. We are therefore of opinion that this alleged Bengali letter written by a native is a ruse, pure and simple, and the letter contains internal evidence which corroborates our view. A native ignorant of English is not likely to have so closely and intelligently studied the progress of the Boer war; the early British reverses; the relief of Ladysmith and Kimberley and the surrender of Cronje; the occupation of Bloemfontein; the gallant defence of Mafeking by Colonel Baden-Powell; the British reverses at Reddesburg; Lord Methuen's victory at Boshof; the death of Villebois-Mareuil; the re-occupation of Rouxville, &c., &c. There is very little doubt that the writer of the letter is not a Bengali and the letter is not written in Bengali. The letter has been published with a motive. The Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal and the North-Western Provinces have adopted a very mild and sympathetic plague policy. The *Englishman* does not approve of this, and is trying to prejudice the minds of the rulers against the natives by showing that the Indian people are disloyal, that British victories disappoint them and British defeats elate them, and that they sincerely desire the overthrow of the British rule in India. The writer of the letter in question does not give out his name, nor does he quote a single passage from a native paper to prove his assertion. But still this worthless letter will partially serve the *Englishman's* purpose.

Now, what does the *Englishman* want? Does it want the natives to be loyal and well-wishers of the British Government? If so, let it remain silent. Even the *Englishman* cannot sincerely qoestion the loyalty of the Indian people. If the Indian people had been disloyal, a handful of Englishman would not have been able to rule millions of Indians with so much ease. The assault on the European soldiers at Dinapore took place under exceptional circumstances. The mind of the Dinapore public had been unsettled by the plague and the plague measures when one night three European soldiers trespassed into a village. The assault was without doubt due to a panic. But while the *Englishman* is trying to make so much of this assault on European soldiers, he has nothing to say about the brutal assault on two natives by European soldiers within cantonment limits. The *Englishman* is edited by an Englishman, and this partiality does not become one who belongs to a nation who were moved by the misery and sufferings of the slaves. Let the *Englishman* give up traducing the natives and making a distinction between natives and Europeans.

BANGABHUMI, May 8th, 1900.

The *Englishman* on the present English situation in India.

48. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that the well-wisher of India, the *Englishman*, is full of grief at the present condition of India. It can witness the perpetual sufferings of Indians from plague and famine without shedding a drop of tear. But its soul is deeply moved to see riots and affrays in different parts of India in which Europeans are hurt. It does not consider that these riots and affrays are an inevitable result of such antipathy against natives as it itself shows.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR HITAISHINI, April 18th, 1900.

Want of cattle for agricultural operations.

49. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 18th April is sorry to observe that owing to the immense loss of cattle in Gujerat and Khandesh, the cultivating classes therein are unable to proceed with their agricultural operations without a prompt supply of oxen from other places. How deplorable the state of things is can be easily seen from the fact that the Government of Bombay have anxiously enquired of the other provincial Governors whether it will be possible to get oxen in their provinces before the agricultural season commences. The editor draws the attention of the Government, as well as of the public, to the subject, and hopes that effective measures will be promptly adopted for the protection of cattle that have not been already slaughtered or otherwise disposed of and for the indent of new ones from other quarters.

50. The same paper thanks the second prince of Khadial, Lala Shib Narayan Sinha Dev, for the magnanimous and benevolent deeds which he performed in the places which he visited during his return home from the Cuttack centre, where he appeared for the Calcutta University Entrance examination. Among these may be mentioned his calling of Brahman meetings at Puri and Bhubaneswar, his promise of an annual grant of Rs. 50 to the newly-established middle English school at Bhubaneswar, and his prompt payment of one year's aid in advance; his gift to the poor students of the same school, and his donation of Rs. 25 for a supply of clothes and sweetmeats to the poor indoor patients of the Cuttack General Hospital.

A benevolent Uriya prince.

SAMBALPUR HATAISHINI, April 18th, 1900.

51. Referring to the plan of Government to keep native regiments in the island of Mauritius, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 21st April hopes that there will arise in this connection some necessity for allowing the Indians to hold higher posts in the Military Department.

Native regiments in Mauritius.

UTKALDIPIKA, April 21st, 1900.

52. Alluding to Mr. Raleigh's speech at Allahabad on University education, in which the speaker made some observations on the immense superiority and advantages of liberal education as compared with a narrow professional education, the same paper wonders how some people are strenuously urging the Government to encourage the latter, and how some of the rulers are unwillingly prevailed upon by their specious prayers.

Mr. Raleigh on liberal education.

UTKALDIPIKA.

53. The same paper is sorry to notice that a cruel patwari tax is shortly going to be imposed on the people of Orissa in addition to the recent chaukidari tax. As the matter is under the consideration of the Government, the writer has every reason to hope that the wild scheme will be soon abandoned, and the deep gratitude of the people earned thereby.

A patwari tax in Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA.

54. Relying on the strength of its correspondent Babu Samson Sagar Raul, the same paper writes that the portions of Dhenkanal and Athgarh, in the vicinity of the village Khuntuni, are frequented by tigers, which killed six or seven men. The writer observes that it is strange that there has been no attempt as yet from any quarter to put a stop to this loss of human life.

Tigers in Dhenkanal and Athgarh.

UTKALDIPIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

55. A correspondent of the *Silchar* [Cachar] of the 1st May says that Babu Gopal Chandra Das, Sub-Deputy Collector of Hailakandi, who is entrusted with the disposal of cases relating to registration of names, has too much work on his hands to be able to dispose of such cases in proper time. The result is that a great many cases are postponed to the great inconvenience of the parties. This inconvenience may be removed by transferring all such contested cases to the file of the Musalman Sub-Deputy Collector, whose criminal work is not heavy.

Cases relating to registration of names in Hailakandi.

SILCHAR, May 1st, 1900.

The correspondent also refers to an irregularity in connection with the presentation of plaints for registration of names in Hailakandi. In Hailakandi any person whatever may file plaints for registration of names. This practice is however objectionable, inasmuch as such plaints, being often written by ignorant village muharrirs, are in many instances found to be full of mistakes, which have to be rectified at a cost of good deal of money and trouble. Another mischief connected with the present practice is that as those who present such plaints are unknown to the Court, a person presenting such a plaint may afterwards deny that he presented it. The attention of the Chief Commissioner is invited to this matter.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 12th May, 1900.

W L W.—Reg. No. 7970—77—16-5-1900.

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